

ANNUAL REPORT
TO THE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF
LONGTOWN

For the Year ending 31st December, 1898,

BY

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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LONGTOWN, 16TH JANUARY, 1899.

ANNUAL REPORT

To the Longtown Rural District Council

For the Year ending December 31st, 1898.

GENTLEMEN,

Herewith I beg to lay before you the tables of births, deaths, and new cases of infectious sickness as required by the Local Government Board.

The total number of deaths registered in our district during 1898 has been 111; 50 being males and 61 females, which are equal to a death-rate of 15·45 per thousand per annum. In 1897 the number of deaths was 103, and the death-rate 14·34. Of those under one year of age there were 15 deaths, with a rate of 2·08; last year 16 deaths, rate 2·22. Of those between one and five years of age 7 deaths, rate 0·97; last year the number and rate were the same. Of those sixty-five years and upwards 54 deaths, rate 7·52; last year 38 deaths, rate 5·29.

The total births registered during 1898 have been 183; 95 being males and 88 females, which are equal to a birth-rate of 25·48 per thousand per annum. Last year there were 161 births; 85 being males and 76 females, with a birth-rate of 22·42.

In the High District the number of deaths was 37, and the births 55; the death-rate being 17·42 and the birth-rate 25·89. Last year the number of deaths was 26, and the rate 12·24. Of children under five years of age there were 3 deaths, with a rate of 1·41; last year 8 deaths, rate 3·76. Of those sixty-five years and upwards there were 18 deaths, rate 8·47; last year 8 deaths, rate 3·76.

In the Low District, including the Workhouse, the number of deaths was 74, and the births 128; the death-rate being 14·63, and the birth-rate 25·31. Last year the number of deaths was 77, and the rate 15·22. In the Low District, excluding Workhouse, there were 71 deaths, with a rate of 14·14; last year the number was 67, and the rate 13·36. Of children under five years of age 19 deaths, rate 3·75; last year 15 deaths, rate 2·96. Of those sixty-five years of age and upwards 36 deaths, rate 7·11; last year 30 deaths, rate 5·93.

In Longtown there were 31 deaths, with a rate of 18·49 ; last year 24 deaths, rate 14·32. Of children under five years of age 13 deaths, rate 7·75 ; last year 6 deaths, rate 3·58. Of those sixty-five years and upwards 14 deaths, rate 8·35 ; last year 5 deaths, rate 2·98.

The following table shews the number of deaths and the rate per thousand in Longtown since 1881 :—

Year.	No. of Deaths.			Death-rate.
1881	...	36	...	20·27
1882	...	36	...	20·27
1883	...	41	...	23·08
1884	...	29	...	16·32
1885	...	39	...	21·95
1886	...	40	...	22·22
1887	...	36	...	20·00
1888	...	24	...	13·51
1889	...	41	...	22·77
1890	...	48	...	26·66
1891	...	40	...	23·86
1892	...	40	...	23·86
1893	...	29	...	17·30
1894	...	33	...	19·68
1895	...	44	...	26·25
1896	...	23	...	13·72
1897	...	24	...	14·32
1898	...	31	...	18·49

The total number of deaths from zymotic diseases in 1898 has been 7, viz. :—1 from diphtheria, 1 from typhoid fever, 3 from measles, 1 from whooping cough, and 1 from diarrhœa. The death-rate per thousand being 0·97 ; last year 4 deaths, rate 0·55.

Table shewing the number of deaths and the rate per thousand due to zymotic diseases since 1881 :—

Year.	No. of Deaths.			Death-rate.
1881	...	7	...	0·90
1882	...	14	...	1·81
1883	...	10	...	1·28
1884	...	4	...	0·51
1885	...	5	...	0·64
1886	...	14	...	1·78
1887	...	9	...	1·14
1888	...	7	...	0·88
1889	...	5	...	0·63
1890	...	9	...	1·13
1891	...	10	...	1·39

Year.	No. of Deaths.			Death-rate.
1892	...	7	...	0·97
1893	...	9	..	1·25
1894	...	10	..	1·39
1895	...	1	...	0·13
1896	...	3	...	0·41
1897	...	4	...	0·55
1898	...	7	...	0·97

Table of deaths due to phthisis and the rate per thousand since 1882 :—

Year.	No. of Deaths.		Death-rate.	
1882	...	20	...	2·59
1883	...	20	...	2·57
1884	...	20	...	2·56
1885	...	18	...	2·31
1886	...	13	...	1·66
1887	...	10	...	1·27
1888	...	13	...	1·64
1889	...	17	...	2·11
1890	...	14	...	1·76
1891	...	14	...	1·94
1892	...	14	...	1·94
1893	...	9	...	1·25
1894	...	11	...	1·53
1895	...	9	...	1·25
1896	...	7	...	0·97
1897	...	8	...	1·11
1898	...	5	...	0·69

Table shewing the number of deaths and the rate per thousand from pulmonary diseases, including phthisis, since 1882 :—

Year.	No. of Deaths.			Death-rate.
1882	...	35	...	4·54
1883	...	59	...	7·60
1884	...	34	...	4·38
1885	...	43	...	5·52
1886	...	46	...	5·87
1887	...	25	...	3·18
1888	...	34	...	4·30
1889	...	33	...	4·16
1890	...	40	...	5·05
1891	...	41	...	5·70
1892	...	36	...	5·01
1893	...	26	...	3·62

Year.	No. of Deaths.		Death-rate.
1894	...	34	4.73
1895	...	33	4.59
1896	...	22	3.06
1897	...	22	3.06
1898	...	20	2.78

Table of deaths and the rate per thousand from pulmonary diseases, excluding phthisis :—

Year.	No. of Deaths.		Death-rate.
1882	...	15	1.95
1883	...	39	5.03
1884	...	14	1.82
1885	...	25	3.21
1886	...	33	4.21
1887	...	15	1.91
1888	...	21	2.66
1889	...	16	2.02
1890	...	26	3.29
1891	...	27	3.76
1892	...	22	3.07
1893	...	17	2.36
1894	...	23	3.20
1895	...	24	3.34
1896	...	15	2.08
1897	...	14	1.95
1898	...	15	2.08

The lowest death-rate in 1898 occurred in Kirkandrews, there being 7 deaths, with a rate of 8.84. The highest death-rate occurred in Nicholforest, with 12 deaths, and a rate of 21.93. In Bewcastle 15 deaths, rate 18.75. In Stapleton 10 deaths, rate 12.87. In Arthuret, including Workhouse, 41 deaths, rate 16.81. In Arthuret, excluding Workhouse, 38 deaths, rate 15.82. In Kirklington 20 deaths, rate 13.90. In Scaleby 6 deaths, rate 15.46.

The following table shews the number of deaths and the rate per thousand since 1881 :—

Year.	No. of Deaths.		Death-rate.
1881	...	124	16.08
1882	...	126	16.34
1883	...	143	18.34
1884	...	121	15.60
1885	...	134	17.21
1886	...	155	19.97
1887	...	118	15.02
1888	...	123	15.57

Year.	No. of Deaths.		Death-rate.	
1889	...	124	...	15·65
1890	...	152	...	19·18
1891	...	124	...	17·26
1892	...	123	...	17·12
1893	...	114	...	15·87
1894	...	114	...	15·87
1895	...	136	...	18·93
1896	...	96	...	13·36
1897	...	103	...	14·34
1898	...	111	...	15·45

In comparing the vital statistics of 1898 with those of its predecessor it will be found that the number of deaths is somewhat in excess, but only in 1896 and '7 have there been fewer deaths. The number of births during the year was 183, and the deaths 111; the excess of births over deaths being 72. The returns shew that 21 deaths were due to diseases of the heart. I would also draw your attention to the number of fatalities due to injuries of various kinds, there being 9. The number of deaths among old people has been greater than usual, 35 being seventy years of age and upwards. It is satisfactory to note the continued decrease in the number of deaths due to phthisis, there being only 5, and the rate 0·69; and of this number 1 did not belong to the district. The numbers have been decreasing since 1885, but more particularly during the last four years. Six deaths were registered as due to influenza. The zymotic death-rate of 0·97 is higher than it has been since 1894, due to the prevalence of measles in the district.

There were two deaths among persons not belonging to the district, which makes the corrected number 109, and the rate 15·17.

Of the total number of deaths, 35 were seventy years of age and upwards, 17 were eighty years of age and upwards, and 1 was ninety-three years of age. The ages of those seventy years of age and upwards are as follows:—72, 72, 72; 73; 75; 76, 76; 77, 77, 77; 78, 78; 79, 79, 79, 79, 79, 79; 80; 82, 82, 82, 82, 82; 84; 85, 85, 85, 85; 86, 86; 87, 87; 89; 93.

DEATHS REGISTERED FROM DIFFERENT CAUSES DURING THE YEAR 1898.

Cause of Death.	Number.	
Senile Decay	...	11
Diseases of Nervous System	...	10
„ Respiratory Organs	...	15
„ Heart	...	21
„ Digestive Organs...	...	9
Carried forward	...	66

Cause of Death.				Number.
Brought forward				66
Diseases of Kidneys	...	...	...	4
„ Bladder	...	...	...	3
„ Liver	...	...	...	1
Phthisis (Consumption)	...	...	...	5
Cancer	...	...	...	3
Diphtheria	...	...	...	1
Measles	...	...	...	3
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	1
Diarrhœa...	...	...	...	1
Influenza...	...	...	...	6
Septicæmia	...	...	...	1
Abscess	...	...	...	1
Chronic Alcoholism	...	...	...	1
Tetanus	...	...	...	1
Infantile Debility	...	...	...	1
Premature Births	...	...	...	2
Injuries	...	...	...	9
Total				<hr/> 111 <hr/>

I had 41 notifications of infectious diseases, 14 being in the High District and 27 in the Low District.

SCARLET FEVER.

Twenty-nine cases were notified, 10 in the High District and 19 in the Low District, of which 12 occurred in Longtown. The cases in Longtown were a continuation of cases that occurred towards the end of 1897. One case occurred in February, 2 in June, 1 in July, 3 in August, 1 in September, and 4 in December. In January, 1 case occurred at Fauld, 1 at Blaeberry Rigg; in March, 3 at Rosetrees Cottages, 1 at Sandysyke; and in August, 1 at Netherby Lodge. In High District 2 occurred at Nether Oakshaw and 2 at Saughtrees in January. In February, 3 occurred at Stubb Cottage and 3 at Shawhead. In no case was it necessary to close any of the schools. The type of fever has been a mild one, no deaths having resulted. I think that in some cases the fever is spread from mild and unrecognised cases, and in other cases from intentional concealing of the fever, instead of notifying it as should be done.

ERYSIPELAS.

There were 2 cases, 1 at Greensyke and the other at Longtown.

PUERPERAL FEVER.

One case occurred at Wellington, Bewcastle.

DIPHTHERIA.

Seven cases were notified, 2 in the High District, and 5 in the Low District. One case occurred in January, at Howend; at Parkhouse, 1 towards the end of February, and another in the beginning of March; 1 at Rosscastle in March, and 2 at Burnhill in the same month; and in December, 1 at Lowplains. I have referred to the above cases elsewhere in my report.

TYPHOID FEVER.

Two cases occurred at Glinger Cottages, but nothing was discovered there, or where the first patient lodged and worked in Longtown.

MEASLES.

In July, just before the holidays, an epidemic of measles broke out among children attending Rhodds School. The school was closed till after the holidays. Some cases of measles occurred among children attending Longtown Board School before the holidays. The School opened as usual, but two weeks afterwards the number of children laid up with measles was so great that the school had to be closed for six weeks. Also among children attending Stapleton School measles occurred in epidemic form, and the school had to be closed for seven weeks.

I append details of some of the sanitary work that has been done during the year:—

In three houses where there was an absence of ventilation the windows have been made to open.

Eleven new privies have been erected.

Your Inspector reports that the common lodging-houses, bake-houses, and slaughter-houses have been kept in fairly good order.

At Castlemoss House, where the byre adjoined the bedroom—yard in front of the house in a filthy condition from liquid manure, which has no proper drainage to carry it away; quantity of liquid filth surrounding well; also a ditch in front of dwelling full of smelling sludge from yard and manure heap. In this case a new byre has been erected and the other nuisances remedied. At Barclose, where there had been 2 cases of diphtheria, yard required paving and channelling to allow the liquid to run freely. This has been done. At Mosshouse where the piggery was adjoining bedroom it has been remedied. I reported to you the very insanitary condition of Ford Inn with regard to roof, walls, and floors. All the recommendations of the Council have been carried out, and the house is now in good sanitary

condition. Upper Moat Farm, the drainage of the yard was in an unsatisfactory condition. This has been drained and trapped. Standingstone Rigg, where there had been a case of typhoid fever, I reported that the yard was in a very bad condition, due to defective paving and drainage allowing a lot of liquid to stand about the yard. It has been drained and paved. The owners intend building a new house this season. I also reported Howend, where there had been a case of diphtheria, that the drainage from the farmyard was carried to a large open cesspool of decomposing filth, and thence in an open drain to the burn where it discharged. The cesspool has been emptied, and proper drainage thence into the burn. In February I brought to your notice the insanitary condition of Bankend Farm House. Part of the work has been carried out, and the remainder is being attended to. At Hardmannor, where the parlour floor was damp and the wood rotting, the floor has been re-boarded. At Blaeberry Rigg the condition of matters was as follows:—A culvert which carries liquid manure through the road is choked and forces liquid on to the road, the drain which carries slops, &c., from the dwelling-house empties on the roadside; pump tree decayed and loose and admits surface water to run into the well; and privy, which stands higher than well, leaks, and in wet weather the liquid is washed directly into the well. It was advised that earthenware pipes be laid from manure tank up the yard to the dwelling-house, and all the out-buildings properly connected and trapped; a new pump tree to be put in, and puddled with clay around and over the top of the well; soil to be taken out at back of privy to a lower level than the floor, the box made water-tight, and floor made so that liquids would run out at the back. All of these recommendations were carried out. Also a yard in Longtown where there was too much manure and liquid lying about and contaminating the well water. In this case the manure was removed, and the yard paved, drained, and gully-traps fixed, well cleaned and a new tree put in. I also reported Rosscastle where there had been a case of diphtheria—paving and drainage of the yard in an unsatisfactory condition, windows in some of the rooms did not open for ventilation. The yard was paved and drained, and the windows made to open. At Hallfoot, the only bedroom in the house, all the walls were damp, and part of house not spouted. The bedroom was stoothed and back part of house spouted. At Burnhill, where there had been 2 cases of diphtheria, I found too much liquid about yard in front of the house and the drains not provided with gully-traps. This has been remedied. Another, Burnhill, where there was no proper drainage in front and round the house to carry off liquid which stands about in pools. This has been remedied. Woodend, where the yard was in bad condition, and required paving and drainage, which was done. Moss Cottage, yard was in a dirty condition, a lot of smelling liquid manure lying about,

also a large ditch near house with stagnant water which had a bad odour, bedroom floor and walls were damp, house not spouted. Yard drained and paved, and the house spouted. Humphries House, where there has been a large quantity of manure and liquid in yard, one heap of manure close to milk-house. In this case the manure has been removed and the yard drained and channelled. I reported as to the insanitary condition of Sealbiestown farm house and yard. Most of the work advised to be done has been carried out. Also Luckens farm house and yard I reported at the same time. In this case also most of the work has been carried out. I also reported Wood Farm, where the bedroom gable and back walls were damp, house was not spouted behind, drain round house stopped. House has been spouted and drain put in order. Also at Keys Mount, where the channels in front of the piggeries were in a filthy condition, also the ditch behind yard in the same condition. This has been remedied. I also reported Closehouse, the windows do not open for ventilation, bedroom floor a flag one and damp, piggeries seven yards from front door and five yards from well. The work has not yet been carried out, and, after repeated notices, the owner was summoned before the magistrates. Haggiston Holm, yard in bad condition from want of proper paving and drainage. This has been remedied. I reported Crows House with regard to its insanitary condition and the want of a water supply. I understand the cottage is now unoccupied. Dykenook, where the tenants complained that surface water got into the well in the yard, midden too near well, a privy required, yard should be properly drained to carry off surface water and slops, and the midden should be moved farther from the well. The work is not yet carried out but the Inspector has to meet agent to advise about it. Low Ullermire, I reported as to the condition of these cottages. Privies have been erected, but none of the other recommendations have been carried out, but the owner promised to have it done at an early date. Sealeby Hill Farm where I reported the insanitary condition of the yard from want of proper paving and drainage to carry off the liquid, advised that the yard should be drained, paved, and gully-traps fixed. Nothing has yet been done.

A number of other cases were brought to your notice, but the notices had not expired by the end of the year, but will be dealt with during the present year.

WATER SUPPLY.

Last year I reported as to the condition of the water supply at Troughhead that it was unfit for domestic use. Efforts are being made to procure a supply of pure water, which I think will eventually result in success. Howend water supply I reported in connection with the case of diphtheria—pump situated in the yard—on analysis it was found unsuitable for domestic use. Another

supply has been procured. Rosscastle water supply, this has been previously reported, when the well was cleaned and puddled, but it is not yet satisfactory. Not yet remedied but is under consideration. I reported the want of a water supply at Sherwood Cottage. A good supply has been procured. Sunnythaite, in June I reported the want of a proper and sufficient supply of water. Nothing has yet been done, but some delay has occurred on account of the death of the owner. I reported Wood water supply, pump out of order and water had to be carried 370 yards. Pump was put into order and a plentiful supply was got, but on analysis it was found to be unfit for domestic use. An effort is being made by the owner to procure a pure supply. I reported the well water at Close House as quite unfit for domestic use. As the owner refused to do anything after repeated notices he was summoned before the magistrates, but I understand the tenant has left the house. At Highfield, where the pump was out of order and the water unfit for use. This has been remedied and the water is clean and good. I reported that the water at Woodhead was full of floating vegetable matter, and advised that the well should be cleaned. The agent declines to do anything as he considers the water pure and good. I also reported Haithwaite Farm that there was a deficient supply of water from the pump in the yard. Two places have been sunk for water but none was got. Also Scaleby Hill, where the pump tree is old and decayed and stands close to a large pond. It was advised that a new pump tree be put in and the pond filled up near the pump. Nothing has been done.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

S. F. Mc.LACHLAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

Longtown Rural District Council.